

REMARKS

1. Claims 12, 13 and 21-26 are pending in the above-referenced application, following amendment.
2. Applicants have provisionally elected Group V (Claim 12) with traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 14-20 have been withdrawn without waiver or prejudice subject to Applicants right to file one or more divisional applications.
3. The specification was amended at page 4, line 26 to provide the GenBank Accession number.
4. Claim 13 has been maintained, in amended form, subject to the Examiner's reconsideration in part the Restriction Requirement whereby Applicants request to join Group VI (Claim 13) to the claims now under examination.
5. Applicants respectfully traverse and request reconsideration in part of the Examiner's Restriction Requirement of Group V and Group VI on two grounds. First, Applicants believe that Groups V and VI should be consolidated, considering that the classification of both Group V and Group VI are drawn to the same class and subclass. Second, Applicants believe that the restriction requirement between Group V and Group VI is not proper as the Examiner made no showing that the examination of such combined groupings would impose a serious burden on the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in part of the Restriction Requirement of Group V and Group VI be withdrawn.

6. Applicants do not waive their right to traverse or appeal the ground of any current or future Restriction Requirement to any Group not elected for prosecution in this application or in a continuing or divisional application.


7. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to better define Applicants invention and to address the Examiner's Restriction Requirement with regard to claim13.

8. New claims 21-26 have been newly added to even more clearly define that which Applicants consider their invention. Support for this amendment is found, for example, at page 11, line 5 to page 13, line 3, hence the Examiner will appreciate that no new matter is being added by the proposed new claims.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned attorney for purposes of favorably advancing the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 23, 2003



Nicholas I. Slepchuk, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 32,174

Pfizer Inc.  
Patent Department  
MS 8260-1611  
Eastern Point Road  
Groton, CT 06340  
(617) 551-3223